

REMARKS

In the amendments above, claims 1-5 were cancelled and new claims 6-14 were added. The specification also was amended to correct typographical and/or grammatical errors and/or word spellings based on language differences, as well as to add a new paragraph on page 4 (which is supported by the original claim 3), and to insert the reference number (19) after the term "indicator medium" in line 30 on page 3 (which also is supported by the original claims 1 and 3). No new matter has been added to the application, as support for the new claims is found in the specification, including the drawings.

In the Office Action, claims 1-3 and 5 were rejected, while claim 4 was objected to.

The objection to the specification and drawings on page 2 of the Office Action has been overcome by the above amendment to the paragraph bridging pages 3 and 4, in which the reference number "(19)" has been inserted after the term "indicator medium." Also, the term "indicator (19)" recited in the original claims and in the Abstract means the same thing as the indicator medium (19), as one skilled in the art reading the specification would readily understand. Applicant thus asks that the objections be withdrawn.

The claim objections on page 3, and the claim rejections under Section 112, second paragraph, on pages 4-6, have been overcome by the above claim amendments. Applicant thus asks that the rejections be withdrawn.

Claims 1-3 and 5 were rejected under Section 102(b) as anticipated by the Rosan et al. patent, for the reasons the Examiner provided on pages 7-9. This rejection has been

overcome by the above claim amendments, which clarify patentable aspects of the present invention. Applicant also submits the following comments.

Rosan et al. discloses a leak detector valve assembly, the object of which is to provide an improvement to the leak detector of U.S. Patent No. 3,583,435. This improvement comprises the introduction of a gasket to prevent bubbles from being created in the "open" mode (col. 4, lines 39-42).

Rosan et al. discloses a valve assembly comprising a body element having upper and lower, different diameter chambers, a container with liquid, and a plunger means slidably disposed in the body element and moveable from a first position to a second position. The plunger means comprises a hollow tube connected to a plunger body in which a passage is formed between the upper chamber and the container of liquid. The plunger comprises a groove with an o-ring forming a first slidable seal within the upper chamber, and the above-mentioned gasket forming a second butt seal between the container and the lower chamber. Also, a sealing ring forms an entrance to the lower chamber of the body element, with which the plunger seals the upper chamber from the lower chamber when the plunger is in its second position.

In contrast to the claimed invention, as amended, the leak detector of Rosan et al. does not disclose or suggest a detector containing a slidable flow control body having multiple slidable seals fixed externally to the flow control body, as claimed, but rather discloses only a single sliding O-ring 58 fixed to the plunger. Accordingly, the claimed invention (as recited in new claim

6 and dependent claims 7-14) is not anticipated by Rosan et al., and Applicant thus asks that the rejection be withdrawn.

The claimed invention, as amended, also for the above reasons is not obvious over Rosan et al., as Rosan et al. provides no suggestion or motivation, implicit or otherwise, to modify the leak detector to arrive at the claimed invention, as amended.

Additionally, Rosan et al.'s. use of butt seals has the disadvantage that full sealing is achieved only at the end positions of the plunger; therefore, while the plunger is moving from the normal position to the test position, all passages are opened. This disadvantage is overcome by the claimed invention due to the arrangement of the recited seals, and for this additional reason the claimed invention is not obvious over Rosan et al.

Similarly, in Rosan et al., while the detector is in the open position, the upper end of the second passageway appears to remain open to the inlet of the detector. Thus, unlike another nonobvious advantage of the claimed invention, the liquid holding cap cannot be removed or replaced during the open mode. Accordingly, for this additional reason Rosan et al. does not render the claimed invention (as recited in claim 6 and the dependent claims 7-14) obvious.

Rosan et al. further does not teach or suggest the device of new claim 9, which further defines the device of claim 6 "wherein the cylindrical cavity of the housing has a substantially uniform diameter through the housing." In particular, Rosan et al. does not contain or suggest using a housing having a cylindrical cavity with a substantially

uniform diameter through the housing, as the leak detector of Rosan et al. instead contains upper and lower, clearly different diameter chambers.

For the above reasons, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, he is invited to contact the undersigned.

If any additional fees are required for consideration of this Amendment, please debit Deposit Account No. 50-0644 and notify the undersigned.

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